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ANNUAL REVIEWS INC.

4139 EL CAMINO WAY  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94306, USA  
(415) 493-4400

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December 20, 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical School  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Josh:

I enjoyed reading your Tatum memoir for the American Philosophical Society Yearbook. Bill Kaufmann is trying to get permission to have it reprinted in the Annual Review of Genetics. I will keep you posted on what happens.

As ever,

HLR

Herschel L. Roman

HLR/nr

cc: Toni Haskell

Thank you, Hersch.

DEC 27 1977

(in 1961)  
I did have one afterthought. Instead of (or in addition to?) the abovementioned, I ~~would~~ would like to write 4 or 5 pages on the nature of the discovery of "Neurospora", which I believe can help illuminate the nature of scientific progress generally. The convergence of mutational genetics, biochemistry, nutrition and fungal-lifecycle-biology in fact contained no single ingredient that could not be firmly predicted from preexisting knowledge -- so what was the discovery? Yet the focus of attention that was generated by the empirical demonstration of Neurospora mutants transformed the biology of the generation.

Do you think the ARG would be an acceptable? a good vehicle for this kind of discussion?

Yours,